SAVANNAH 2023 Year ~ 510 FMP: Floodplain Management Plan's Annual Action Items Progress Report ~ City Of Savannah - 135163

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#	Action ID & Description	Related to Goal(s)	Mitigation Category	Responsible Office	Potential Funding Source	Timeline	2020 Comments	2022-2023 Updated Comments
1	Comprehensive evaluation of drainage system and implementation of selected projects.	1	SP	CIP Management	SPLOST	Ongoing	Carry Forward - August 2017 City Council adopted "Savannah Forward: Implementation Plan for City Strategic Plan" that includes a hydraulic analysis of all City of Savannah basins by 2023 and reduce structure flooding resulting from a 25-year rain event by 25% by 2025; as well as experience a 5% reducing in street flooding; City is contracting with engineering firms to update basin studies	Placentia Canal: Engineer contractor (EMC) completed the Placentia and Feel Street Stormwater modeling study. Currently working on updating the Kayton Canal model. Bilbo and Casey North: Engineer contractor (Hussey, Gay, and Bell (HGB)) completed the Bilbo Canal study. The restudy of Casey North underway to update the recent drainage improvements. Springfield Canal: Engineer contractor (Thomas and Hutton (T&H)) under contract to complete restudy of the Springfield canal. Two CIP projects within the basin. Current north Springfield widening Morel Park to the Savannah River. Having to redesign the canal on the north side of Louisville Rd. to bypass the historic train trestle. Canal widening from Hwy I-16 to West Gwinnett ST: under redesign and preliminary review of purchasing land / lots to widen the canal on the west side. Water Shed Master Plan: In August 2023 the City, under Chatham County application, has submitted a NOI letter for a NOAA grant to have 19 drainage basin studies for a Watershed Master Plan. The city is currently waiting for NOAA to announce in mid-October 2023 if the City was awarded to proceed to the next step.
2	Enhance Drainage system maintenance program to unclog storm drains/ clear drainage channels and a public education component on proper yard waste disposal and eliminate brush disposal in canals.	1	P, NRP, PIO	CIP Management; Facilities Maintenance	Facilities Maintenance Budget	Ongoing		Adopt a Drain program is being refurbished and moved to the WaterConnectsUsAll website. Staff completed a storm drain art contest in 2022. It is the first of a 3 phased outreach program using art as a compelling way to educate the public on the storm drain's connection to the ocean.
3	Reserve vacant low-lying/flood-prone/wetland areas for open space through acquisition or regulation	1	P, NRP	Development and Real Property Services	City Budget and FEMA Mitigation grant fund	Ongoing	Carry Forward - New draft flood plain maps are incrementally removing low lands from floodplains as BFE's are lowered, making the goal harder to achieve, without writing new regulations; additionally the financial strain the City is experiencing has prevented any further acquisition	Continue to look for opportunity for purchasing lots, but no active actions at this time.
4	Evaluate FEMA-purchased properties for the highest use in floodwater/stormwater storage.	2	P, PP	Real Property Services; Stormwater Mgmt.	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - City used FEMA purchased property to reduce flooding in Bacon Park neighborhood (2016); City developed a plan to use 4 larger acquired properties as a tree farm/nursery which would supply the City's Park and Tree department; growing trees would help absorb flood waters; in 2019, City identified three sites and began the training program; as of 2020, the trees have been planted are continuing to grow	2022 & 23 placed gazebos on two lots, Leedsgate and Clay Streets for community residents. ** Vicksburg Pond: Stormwater utilizing Bacon Park lots for a detention pond. Design Completed out for construction BID.
5	Require in the revision of the Subdivision Ordinance that all new subdivisions dedicate 20% of land as green space.	1	P, PP	Development Services	City Budget	Completed	Carry Forward - City has adopted the Coastal Stormwater Supplement to the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual by reference in its Stormwater ordinance	PART 8- PLANNING AND REGULATION OF DEVELOPMENT, CHAPTER 12 LANDSCAPE AND TREE ORDINANCE, Sec. 8-12008 Design requirements. Requires 20% Green Space.
6	Designate GDOT properties that are unused as areas for flood storage.	1	P, PP	Stormwater Management	City Budget		Carry Forward - GA DOT continues to clear the trees from I-95, I-16, and I-516 rights-of-way creating open space	GADOT is widening a major parts of I-16 and I-95 for growth of the GA Ports Authority and population growth.
7	Reduce future vulnerability of Vallombrosa area through acquisition or regulation.	2	P, PP	Development Services	City Budget		Carry Forward - Vallombrosa Plantation is currently being developed toward a natural and hunting preserve by its owner. Draft Flood maps add property that may be developed in this area of concern, without additional development regulations; the City does not have the funds to acquire or update regulations, however during the plan review process, the Flood reviewer encouraged builders to elevate finish floor height to match the previous FIRM designation	Land is too valuable and need for housing diminishes the opportunity. Promote wetland conservation for open space and ensure the ten additional feet setback are enforced.

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8	Add additional higher regulations to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance that will prohibit enclosures of areas of greater than 300 square feet below the BFE.	2	P, PP	Development Services	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - Higher ordinance language was drafted, but upper administration in the City does not want to implement the higher limitations at this time.	Still having negative reaction to limiting building restrictions.
•	Continue acquisition/demolition of high-risk flood-prone properties.	2	P, PP	Real Property Services	FEMA Mitigation Grant Funds and SPLOST	Ongoing	Carry Forward - The City acquired 10 properties in 2015, three of which were in FEMA's RL database; since, the City has maintained a list of citizens who have inquired about buyouts but no more have been purchased.	Continue to maintain a list of potential buyout. However, seeing decrease in Flood Insurance Policies due to RR 2. * Currently have ten dwelling s on the list. See RLAA Action Report for list of structures.
.0	Evaluate the feasibility of a floodproofing program for homes where acquisition is not an option – especially historic structures	1	P, PP	Development Services, Real Property Services	FEMA Mitigation Grant Funds for eligible type projects and SPLOST	Ongoing	Carry Forward - COS promotes homeowners contact City Staff for an "on site visit" through annual outreach (mailers, meetings, phone calls); City staff will provide retrofitting advice that includes elevation that if applied could lower flood damage costs and potentially prevent a home from being substantially damaged; also encourages owners/developers to implement flood protection techniques during plan review process.	Through outreach insert to the community, The City continues to send out retrofitting information to the community and advertise city personnel site visits. During 2023 made a two Site Visits to encourage floodproofing protection prior to the flood.
1	Target critical facilities for flood mitigation.	1	P, PP, ES	Various City agencies	SPLOST and FEMA mitigation grant funds	Ongoing	Carry Forward - Critical Facilities continue to be checked for compliance with the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance; promotion of protection of Critical Facilities continues through outreach (including newspaper inserts, mailings, and letters to RLA) and advertisement of onsite inspections.	Ensuring warehouses are not storing hazardous materials in the 500 and 100 yea floodplain.
2	Post flood mitigation information at libraries, post offices, heavily trafficked municipal buildings and community centers. Develop and post "potential high water mark" sign	3	PIO	Development Services	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - City provides updated flood information in the library and Development Services buildings. COS is working with Chatham County to implement Georgia Tech's "Smart Sea Level Sensor Project"; COS has also solicited a contractor to develop a Program for Public Information (PPI)	Teamed up with Unincorporated Chatham County to check on a quarterly basis that the newspaper insert outreach (OPC) are plentiful at the library and other several governmental buildings.
3	Continue to enhance newly implemented City website "flood protection information" webpage.	3	PIO	Public Information Office	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - City continuously updates this website; website provides links to Chatham County HMP, revised 2018 FIRM panels, FMP and RLAA Plans, "Smart Sea Level Sensor Project," and many other resources; The City also added new EC, LOMA, FEMA Fact Sheets, and building permit forms.	Highlighted Hurricane protection measure for Ian Nicole and Idalia. Keep adding new documents to include the new FEMA's Elevation and Dry Flood Proofing Certificates. New details o
4	Continue coordination with CEMA, NWS and USGS to enhance flood warning system	3	ES	Public Safety/Emergency Management	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - City of Savannah promotes CEMA Alert system (which also forwards NWS alerts); Additionally, City participates in Georgia Tech's "Smart Sea Level Sensor Project"; Savannah Development Services also has social media	City's Emergency Manager sends out warning text and emails concerning storms and other weather related hazards issued by federal agencies
.5	Continue flood preparedness and outreach activities at local community events	3	PIO	Public Information Office and Development Services	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - City of Savannah provides flood education outreach at various events around the City	Participated at Earth Day, Heard Elementary Stem Night, and CEMA Hurricane Expo, Scheduled to be a GIS day

increase the budget and lengthen the project

organized multiple river cleanup events; additional outreach includes

pick up litter in wetlands and waterways, looking for grant funding to

inserts in utility bills, video PSAs, and advertisements in the community

newspaper; COS also started a pilot program to pay houseless people to

Ongoing Carry Forward - In conjunction with statewide River's Alive effort, COS has City Council members have held numerous litter clean up events each year and the City of Savannah

organization holds an annual employee day of service litter clean up in the spring.

16 Organize public information campaign and

in storm drains.

organize public cleanups to reduce litter/debris

3

PIO, NRP Public information

office, local

environmental

organizations, facilities

maintenance

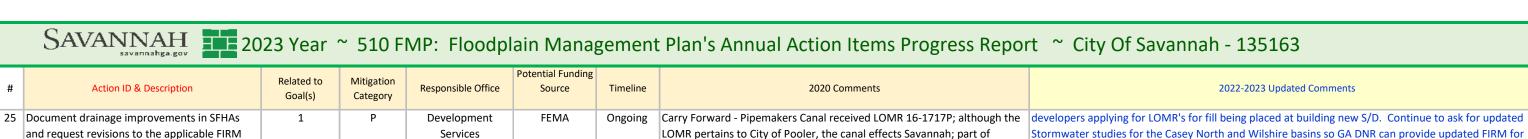
City Budget





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	Conduct public outreach and direct technical assistance – particularly targeting repetitive loss properties and discussion of potential funding.	3	PIO	Development Services	City Budget	Ongoing	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	2023 City personnel help storm improvements meeting for midtown residences. Discuss deep tunnel drainage improvements. The City has a rain barrel voucher program which started in 2022.Each City of Savannah water customer is eligible for one barrel upon completion of a home water audit.	
	Educate the public on the use of permeable concrete paving and establishment of rain gardens to reduce flash flooding impacts	3	PIO	Local environmental groups, Savannah State and Georgia Tech; Stormwater Services and Engineering	Organizational Budgets	Ongoing	Carry Forward - City promotes permeable products during Site Plan review meetings with designers and owners; installed two demonstration rain gardens in 2016; FEMA mitigation grant awarded to the City to plan trees in purchased RL properties that can be transplanted around the City; also received a grant to install green infrastructure in mid town shopping center and green roof in tourist downtown district; City sponsored a rain barrel awareness program; City streets get rehabilitated with the Permeable Paver Program	The City provide information at school events, Hurricane Expo, GIS Day, Earth Day, and other community meetings. The City Water Resources Division constructed a stormwater quality exhibition in Habersham Village. The project included install of permeable pavers on Lamara Drive, install 2 rain gardens, signage, and designer, in color storm manhole covers. Project was completed in 2023.	
	Interview and coverage on local news, in newspaper articles and through advertisement to promote flood mitigation.	3	PIO	Steering Committee; Public Information Office; Savannah State; Georgia Tech	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - City staff has done multiple interviews after storm events and to promote various flood education resources	Savanna Morning News and local TV stations promoted storm safety measures during Hurricanes Ian and Idalia	
	Provide flood mitigation update and outreach to neighborhood groups and other interested parties via an email group address.	3	PIO	Steering committee and development services	City Budget	Ongoing	Facebook posts; Flood protection website is regularly updated to keep material fresh and relevant	SAVANNAH (March 21) — The City of Savannah will host an informational meeting about the Casey South Phase 2 drainage improvements project on March 28 at 6 p.m. at the Jewish Educational Alliance (JEA) located at 5111 Abercorn Street. City staff will present the latest updates on the project which provides drainage benefits to surrounding neighborhoods including Ardsley Park and Habersham Village. The City will be utilizing construction methods such as deep tunneling to minimize disruption to the neighborhoods and avoid damage to tree roots.	
	Organize annual/semi-annual single-focus public workshops/meetings to discuss flood mitigation.	3	PIO	Public Information Office, Development Services, and CEMA	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - Conducted community meetings for Casey Canal and Leedsgate Neighborhood projects. Also conducted meetings for the GA Tech Sea Level Sensors Project	Stormwater Dept hosted a meeting concerning Casey South Phase 2 drainage improvements project that affects Ardsley Park and Habersham Village.	
	Provide flood protection assistance to vulnerable populations (elderly, disabled and low-income individuals) so they can purchase flood insurance.	1, 3	PIO	Real Property Services; Savanah State	City Budget	2-3 Years	COVID-19	No funding. Still promote mitigation efforts to lower flood insurance policy premiums, However, with the implementation of Risk Rating 2.0 , many of the easily accomplished improvements are no longer creditable for reduction.	
	Strategically focus SPLOST funds toward identified drainage improvement projects.	1	SP	CIP Management	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - City has 12 CIP line items addressing failing pipes, drainage studies, pavers replacement, and increase pipe capacity	In August 2023 the City, under Chatham County application, has submitted a NOI letter for a NOAA grant to have 19 drainage basin studies for a Watershed Master Plan. The city is currently waiting for NOAA to announce in mid-October 2023 if the City was awarded to proceed to the next step.	
	Promote flood insurance through community notification to citizens and business personnel by newspapers, letters, and public outreach	3	PIO	Development Services	City Budget	Ongoing	Carry Forward - Flood Insurance information is part of every flood determination letter and included in other outreach materials (RL areas, Savannah Morning News, and SFHA mailing)	OPC - December 18, 2022 and OPF Jan 18, 2022 and two outreaches to the RLAA	



workshops

lack of funds.

to lack of funding.

maps to reflect new conditions through the

26 Remove building code/insurance disconnect

check NFIP/Insurance/Ordinance/IBC)

27 Prioritize CIP projects to address flooding in the

MLK, Montgomery & 52nd, Abercorn & 65th,

28 Complete a study to evaluate the effectiveness of a

stormwater utility based on impervious area and its

Greenway Plan and coordinate with the MPC on the

Derenne, Bilbo basin and Placentia basin.

impact on the typical homeowner.

Plan as needed

initiative

29 Support the Chatham County-Savannah MPC

30 Consider participation in FEMA's high water mark

31 Coordinate with the Chatham County Resource

32 Develop a Watershed Master Plan for the City

flooding through SPLOST funds.

Protection Land to acquire lands vulnerable to

through education of builders/realtors and

modification of technical review checklist (cross-

following areas: Victory Drive, Skidaway & 41st, 37th

Springfield Canal, Cloverdale, Detention Pond @ 52nd

3

1, 2

1

1,3

1, 2

P, PP

SP

SP

P, NRP

PIO

P, NRP

Development

Services

Stormwater

Management

Stormwater

Department and City

Council

Parks and Recreation

Department

Development Services

Parks and Recreation

Department in

cooperation with the

Chatham County-Savannah MPC and the Savannah City Council

Development Services | SPLOST Funding

City Budget

City SPLOST

funding

City Budget

City and Council

Combined

funding of the

MPC

City's operating

budget

FEMA LOMR process.

2022-2023 Updated Comments Stormwater studies for the Casey North and Wilshire basins so GA DNR can provide updated FIRM for updates to Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance includes adding language the area. to ensure a LOMR is completed by owner prior to completing development that alters a watercourse; Received LOMR for development under five acres in New Hampstead; send FEMA request to accept the City drainage improvements study along the Case Canal South; Send GA DNR EPD 12 Months | Carry Forward - COS conducted training sessions (11); created a plan Add article in the outreach to the community (OPC) explaining the RR 2.0 changes review sheet for builders to use when submitting a building permit application; promote this information on the Flood Protection website, newspaper publications; letters to the floodplain, and RLA and realtor 12 Months | Carry Forward - Majority of projects deal with street or nuisance flooding; however Abercorn and Habersham at 56th and 63rd Streets flooding: concept of deep bore tunnel system advertised for bids. most remain unfunded; currently on project is under construction, one is under Spring Field, awarded BRIC grant to design and increase pipe size plus detention ponds: engineering design underway and waiting on USACE permit approval. Bilbo: Three culver crossing and channel widening have been completed. 36 Months Carry Forward - Consultant has been awarded a contract to perform a study of the On Going. Project is being studied for the third time. 48 Months | Carry Forward - COS working with Chatham County to achieve flood protection Project split into three Phases. PH 2 B: Project Leader: Dan Reel, From DeRenne Ave to East 52nd St along the Trumar mitigation for the Truman Linear Trail Project; COS is specifically working on the Parkway. The project design is completed and out to bid for construction. ** PH 3, Doug Patton: Abercorn and West City's portion from DeRenne to Henry Street; Concept report has been approved by Montgomery Cross Rds to Abercorn and Middleground Rd: City advertising for design RFP. *** City Alderman GA DOT; County has completed its portion, City portion has been delayed due to proposing to connect the train from Abercorn and West Montgomery Cross Rds to Sallie Mood Dr. at Lake Mayer. 36 Months | Carry Forward - COS is concentrating on the Sea Level Rise Study and GA Tech's Tide | Substituting the GA Tech's Tide gages program, SPLOST Funding 36 Months Carry Forward - COS is coordinating with Chatham County Resource Protection Land No new activity to acquire land vulnerable to flooding through SPLOST funds; no recent action due 6 Months Carry Forward - Instead of Watershed Master Plan, COS and Chatham County are Continue to look for funding sources. Estimated cost is \$400K per basin X 19 basin = \$7.6M for Savannah alone. completing a Sea Level Rise Plan; Contractor is developing stormwater models there are 24 Basins within the City Limits. Under Chatham County lead, the City co-submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI)

in August for a NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant to complete the Watershed Master Plan. NOAA will

announce if our application can proceed to the next level in October 2013. In 2022 City of Savannah Water Resources

completed updates to the Vernon River Watershed Plan and the Abercorn Creek Watershed Plan.

based on the City and County's stormwater GIS layers; Phase one has been

completed and was presented to the Coastal GA user Group, City Engineering, and

Floodplain Division requests to provide new studies of the area

design, and two are in an ongoing design process.

Stormwater Unity Program; utility fee is not an option.

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	Promote low impact development techniques and green infrastructure projects	1	P, PP, NRP	Stormwater Services	City Budget	_	New Project to promote low impact development techniques such as pervious pavers and rain barrels, etc. to reduce stormwater runoff and reduce urban flooding	Water Resource gave out free rain barrels. City of Savannah conducted 3 rain barrel give away event in 2022 with Ogeechee Riverkeeper. City then started a rain barrel voucher program. Currently each water customer is eligible for 2 barrels when they complete Lead Pipe Survey and Home Water Audit.			
34	Springfield Basin Phase 1 improvements. Canal District DR-905.	1,2	P, PP, SP	Stormwater Services	SPLOST Funding	2022 -2023	New Project. Design and construction over the next 3 years.	Still in Design Phase. Engineering contractor about 70% completed of the done,. Wetlands application submitted to USACE and waiting for their approval.			